

FLORIDA STATE LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT
FLORIDA PARK SERVICE
1949-1950

FLORIDA BOARD OF PARKS AND HISTORIC MEMORIALS

Lewis G. Scoggin
Director

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FOREWORD

I am pleased to present herewith a report of operation of Florida Park Service during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1950.

Our State made a great step forward in the 1949 Legislature in creating a separate department of state government to administer its state park and historic memorial system. This action of the legislature, initiated by Senator Collins and his State Park Committee, indicated an awareness of the great importance and value of an adequate and progressive state park system and of the responsibility of the state in this matter.

I count the year 1949-50 a successful year. The system has been expanded from 28 to 36 Park properties with an increase of 18,305.02 acres. Attendance increased over 35%. Park receipts increased 39%. All this was accomplished with approximately the same number of employees and an increase of less than 5% total funds expended.

It is evident that the people are better informed about and have a better appreciation for state parks than ever before.

Lewis G. Scoggin
Director

FLORIDA BOARD OF PARKS AND HISTORIC MEMORIALS

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ACQUISITION

During the year 8 new parks and historic monuments were acquired totaling 4,656.62 acres and 13,648.4 acres were added to previously acquired parks. Total acreage, as of June 30, 1949, was 56, 631.5. Total acreage as of June 30, 1950, was 74,936.52.

NEW PARKS

Fort Pickens Reservation, comprising 1658.6 acres of land on the west end of Santa Rosa Island was purchased from the Federal Government under Public Law 616 for \$6,830.00. This includes Old Fort Pickens.

John F. Rollins Bird and Plant Sanctuary, a 150 acre segment running east and west through the center of Fort George Island was acquired by gift from Rollins College. Improvements consist of a rustic lodge and garage apartment.

Ribaut Refuge (Flagler Beach House of Refuge Reservation), Flagler Beach, is being acquired by patent from the Federal Government. Acreage 139.27, cost \$1,392.70. Purchase complete except formality of issuing patent.

NEW HISTORIC MONUMENTS

Under the Collins Bill, Chapter 25353, 1949 Legislature, the following named historic monument properties were added to the State Park System without cost:

Olustee Battlefield Memorial	Olustee	5 acres
Dade Memorial Park	Bushnell	40 acres
Gamble Mansion (Judah P. Benjamin Memorial)	Ellenton	5 acres
State Constitution Convention Memorial	Port St. Joe	12 acres
Confederate Monument (Granite Marker Only)	DeFuniak Springs	
Battle of Natural Bridge Monument	Woodville	6 acres
Battle of Marianna Memorial (Granite Marker Only)	Marianna	

ADDITIONAL ACREAGE, OLD PARKS

Gold Head Branch State Park	13.3 acres	
Myakka River State Park	11,053.5 acres	
Torreya State Park	40 acres	
St. Andrews State Park	242.4 acres	
		13,648.4 acres

Title to Little Talbot Island is in the State Road Department. These lands will be transferred to our Board upon determination by the State Road Department of its needs for road, right-of-way and borrow pits, under terms of purchase by the State Road Department and terms of agreement with our Board.

Yellow Bluff, an historic site at New Berlin, is in process of acquisition by gift, having been approved by the Board.

LAND ACQUISITION NEGOTIATIONS

Overseas Parkway lands, comprising several thousand acres, under the jurisdiction of the State Road Department, the Overseas Road & Toll Bridge District and the Internal Improvement Fund have been applied for. We have every reason to hope for transfer of these lands to our Board during the 1950-51 fiscal year, upon reaching final agreement as to the lands needed for such a project and the needs of other agencies concerned.

St. Joseph's Bay Military Reservation (St. Joseph Peninsula), 3,619 acres, has been applied for under Public Law 616, 80th Congress. Former owners of most of these lands have filed protests against acquisition by the State and requested privilege of repurchase.

Cayo Costa Military Reservation (Cayo Costa Island), has been applied for under Public Law 616, 80th Congress. This area has 1176.24 acres.

Old Pensacola Forts - San Carlos, Barrancas and Redoubt were applied for under the provisions of Public Law 878, 80th Congress, under which these forts were to be turned over to the National Park Service for administration as National monuments; or, in case the forts were not acceptable to the National Park Service, they were to be turned over to the State of Florida. The present status is that the Navy has offered to turn these forts over to us under a revocable permit, the terms of which are not at all satisfactory. On request of Congressman Sikes, the Navy through Admiral J. F. Jelley, Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, is considering a revision of its terms.

McKenzie Lands - Manatee Springs. Mr. McKenzie is still promising to convey 200 acres as soon as he can clear titles.

Maxie Feagle Lands - O'Leno. Negotiations are in progress to purchase 140 acres of much needed land at \$15.00 per acre during the fiscal year 1950-51.

McNary Land - Tomoka. Negotiations are in progress to purchase the McNary home property in fiscal year 1950-51.

MAINTENANCE

Major Building Repairs

5 cabins re-roofed, Gold Head Branch;
9 cabins and superintendent's residence floors refinished and superintendent's residence interior repainted;
5 cabins re-roofed, O'Leno
1 cabin reconditioned, Myakka
Gamble Mansion - water proofing walls and painting;
Ft. Clinch - equipped beach lodge kitchen for use;
Hugh Taylor Birch - painting and repairs to Birch House;
Torreya - replaced passageway with brick and repaired termite damage - Gregory Mansion;
Jonathan Dickinson - developed an apartment for Mr. Durst.

Other Major Repairs

Gold Head Branch - started \$3000 beach improvements job;
Olustee - reconditioned area around monument and installed new flag pole;
Hillsboro river front bulkhead replaced at swimming area.

General Maintenance & Fire Protection

This item, the largest maintenance item, covers daily cleaning and minor repairs to approximately a hundred buildings; frequent work on our 75 miles of graded earth roads; mowing about 75 acres of finish and rough lawn and road shoulders; fence repairs on about 50 miles of fence; hyacinth eradication and control; fire line maintenance and fire fighting; maintenance of tools and equipment.

DEVELOPMENT

No funds were available for major new development works.

Work started on a lake shore road in Myakka by the Road Department in June.

Work underway on the approach road to Dade Park at the close of the fiscal year.

Work underway on the approach road to Highlands Hammock State Park at the close of the fiscal year.

The Refreshment Building at Hugh Taylor Birch was completed, having been almost finished during 1948-49.

The east front retaining wall and entrance way at Hugh Taylor Birch was completed by Fraser Construction Company under an old agreement with Mr. Birch.

A portion of the main parking area graded and surfaced, Hugh Taylor Birch.

NEW EQUIPMENT

Ten (10) row boats were made at Florida Caverns for Myakka River.

Ten (10) row boats were made at Florida Caverns for Hillsboro River.

Cars and trucks purchased:

- 1 Passenger car - V8 Ford - Administration (Brown)
- 1 3/4 ton Pickup, Chevrolet - Myakka
- 1 Station Wagon, Willys - Administration (Harmon)
- 1 Used Ford $\frac{1}{2}$ Ton Pickup (no cost) - Dade (*)
- 1 Used Jeep (no cost) - Ft. Pickens (*)
- 1 Used $1\frac{1}{2}$ Ton Fire Truck, Chevrolet (no cost) - Ft. Pickens (*)

(*) Acquired with the land. Several items of light equipment purchased including power mowers, fog-sprayers, pumps, etc.

PLANNING

A total of \$30,000. was secured in June from the Federal Government through the Improvement Commission for planning, - \$15,000. for Little Talbot Island, \$10,000. for Hugh Taylor Birch and \$5,000. for Myakka River State Parks.

Applications for additional funds for planning Tomoka, Manatee Springs and Santa Rosa State Parks were submitted.

This federal money is secured from the General Service Administration, Community Facilities Service, under Public Law 352, 81st Congress which provides that all moneys advanced for planning a development project shall be repaid to the U. S. Government upon starting construction on the project.

Master planning of all state parks was resumed in November, and has been in process since that time, preparatory to completion of a prospectus for the entire park system.

A general layout plan and report on the proposed Overseas Parkway was prepared in cooperation with the State Road Department and the Overseas Road and Toll Bridge District, each paying one-third of the cost of \$1,500.

FINANCING

The State Improvement Commission has agreed to cooperate fully with us in effort to finance the complete development of three state parks; namely, Little Talbot Island, Hugh Taylor Birch and Myakka River through the sale of self-liquidating revenue certificates.

The legislative appropriation for 1949-50 was \$297,500., of which only \$269,119.50 was released for expenditure by the Budget Commission. Total receipts from park operations were \$73,711.73. The State Road Department transferred \$10,000, appropriated for development of Constitution Monument to our Board.

Every effort is being made to secure an equitable appropriation in the 1951 Legislature.

In cooperation with our Board, the State Road Department budgeted \$139,000. for construction of State Park roads and \$3,249,200. for reconditioning and rebuilding State highways that will materially increase the flow of traffic to and by State Parks.

Heckscher Foundation offered to donate \$10,000 for playground equipment for Little Talbot Island.

Mr. Duncan L. Clinch, grandson of General Clinch, offered to contribute \$5,000 toward the development of a Clinch Memorial Museum at Fort Clinch, conditioned upon the balance being furnished by our Board and upon his approval of plans.

STATE PARKS IN OPERATION

Florida Caverns State Park	1,187 acres	Marianna
Fort Clinch State Park	1,086 acres	Fernandina
Gold Head Branch State Park	1,331 acres	Keystone Heights
Highlands Hammock State Park	3,800 acres	Sebring
Hillsborough River State Park	2,637 acres	Zephyrhills
Hugh Taylor Birch State Park	180 acres	Fort Lauderdale
Myakka River State Park	26,746.6 acres	Sarasota
O'Leno State Park	1,380 acres	High Springs

STATE PARKS PARTIALLY DEVELOPED

Torreya State Park	1,138 acres	Rock Bluff
Collier-Seminole State Park	6,423 acres	Royal Palm Hammock
St. Andrews State Park	1,000.4 acres	Panama City

SCIENTIFIC AREA

John F. Rollins Bird and Plant Sanctuary (*)	150 acres	Fort George Island
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UNDEVELOPED STATE PARKS

Tomoka State Park	834 acres (#)	Ormond
(#) This acreage includes: Bulow ruins, 109 acres; Addison Blockhouse, 5 acres; and Ormond's Tomb, 9.3 acres approximately.		
Anastasia State Park	852 acres	St. Augustine
Pan-American State Park	270 acres	Fort Lauderdale
Suwannee River State Park	1,651 acres	Ellaville
Jonathan Dickinson State Park	11,124 acres	Hobe Sound
Little Talbot Island State Park	2,500 acres	Jacksonville
DeSoto Beach State Park	216 acres	Titusville
Lake Griffin State Park	725 acres	Leesburg
Santa Rosa State Park	1,399 acres	Pensacola
Manatee Springs State Park	1,500 acres	Chiefland
Ribaut (An ocean front area) (**)	139.27 acres	Flagler Beach

(*) Acquired during fiscal year.

(**) In process of acquisition.

HISTORIC MEMORIALS

Olustee Battlefield Memorial	(*)	5 acres	Olustee
Dade Memorial Park	(*)	40 acres	Bushnell
Bulow Ruins (and Plantation)		109 acres	Ormond
Addison Blockhouse		5 acres	Ormond
Ormond's Tomb		9.3 acres	Ormond
Turtle Mound		16 acres	New Smyrna Beach
Historic Site (Sugar Mill Ruins)	(*)	17.35 acres	New Smyrna Beach
Yellow Bluff	(**)	2 acres	New Berlin
Gamble Mansion (Judah P. Benjamin Memorial)	(*)	5 acres	Ellenton
Madira Bickel Mound	(*)	10 acres	Terra Ceia Island
State Constitution Convention Memorial	(*)	12 acres	Port St. Joe
Confederate Monument	(*)	site	DeFuniak Springs
Battle of Natural Bridge Monument	(*)	6 acres	Woodville
Battle of Marianna Memorial	(*)	site	Marianna
Fort Pickens	(*)	1,658.6 acres	Santa Rosa Island

(*) Acquired during fiscal year.

(**) In process of acquisition.

OPERATION

General

State Park operation is public service operation. During the year approximately 376,000 persons visited our parks. Our personnel greeted these visitors, told them what the parks were and what there was for them to see and do; helped them to find parking places for their cars; guided them on tours of the caverns, near Marianna; guided them through the museum at Fort Clinch; told them how good the fishing was and rented them boats at Gold Head Branch, Myakka River and Hillsborough River State Parks; checked their clothing and valuables while they swam at Gold Head Branch, O'Leno, Hillsborough River, and Hugh Taylor Birch; served them food and refreshments; cleaned up behind them as they left the cabins, picnic tables, bathhouses, etc; said good-bye and reminded them to come again.

RECREATION

Florida Park And Recreation Training Institute

The First Annual Florida Park and Recreation Training Institute, was conducted May 8-11, 1950, at Highlands Hammock State Park, Sebring, by the General Extension Division of Florida with cooperation of the Florida Institute of Park Executives, the Florida Recreation Association, and the University of Florida. It focused attention upon the variety of problems which confront those employed in the development and supervision of park and other recreational areas. It demonstrated the need for educational opportunities and the possibilities for in-service training.

Dean B. C. Riley, General Extension Division of Florida, stated "Since the American and the Florida Institutes of Park Executives have clearly indicated a desire for a sustained program of this kind, and as the Florida Park Service has expressed the hope that State Park facilities be used in such training programs, The General Extension Division is already planning to cooperate in every way possible in making the services of the State universities available for this work."

Recreation Program

Nearly fourteen hundred persons participated in organized social recreation during the past several months at Highlands Hammock and Myakka River State Parks. In addition 3,171 persons participated in the day camping programs at Hillsborough River and Highlands Hammock State Parks, while numerous consultant services have been given to private organizations and school groups relative to the utilization of State Park areas for recreational outings. A special recreation program was prepared for the Florida Institute of Park Executives at Highlands Hammock.

The Florida Park Service sponsored a camp counselor training institute at Hillsborough River State Park, June 19 - 23, 1950, in order that the teachers who were to serve in the Hillsborough River School Day Camping Program might have the advantage of special training in the areas of arts and crafts, boating, campcrafts, use of the compass, nature lore, and numerous other phases of camping. The Hillsborough River day camp was conducted from June 26 to August 11, 1950, or seven weeks, while the Highlands Hammock day camping program ran for only two weeks. One college graduate who was a nature specialist and two college recreation students comprised the special staff members of the day camping programs. These persons were employed by the Florida Park Service. Eight teachers and one principal were employed by the Hillsborough County School Board for Hillsborough River Day Camping Program, while two persons were used by the school group from Highlands county.

The day campers experienced such activities as boating, fishing, fire-building, use of the compass, arts and crafts which utilized native materials, camp cooking, construction of bamboo shelters, palmetto tables, trips along nature trails, conservation of plant life, and a daily swim during their five day outing to the park. School buses were used for transportation and the daily camper load was about one hundred persons or fifteen campers per counselor per day. F. H. Thomas, principal of the Wimauma High School, and Johnny Jones, recreation supervisor of the Florida Park Service, served as co-directors of the Hillsborough River Day Camp.

Since the completion of the day camping activities, a special effort has been made to stimulate an interest in the recreational possibilities of Torreya, Florida Caverns, O'Leno, Fort Clinch and Gold Head Branch State Parks.

The civic leaders of various communities adjacent to these State Park areas are being contacted daily in the hope that the recreational interests and needs of these groups may be served by the ever expanding recreation program of the Florida Park Service.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Field work was carried on in five main projects. The largest project, dealing with Indian archaeology, was conducted by Assistant Archaeologist Bullen on and around Madira Bickel Mound State Monument. A report on these excavations has been written and awaits arrangements for publication. The major project on sites of the historic period was conducted by Archaeologist Griffin among the plantation ruins of Volusia county. The object of this work was to provide accurate information for evaluating the various ruins in the area, of which the Park Service has three, and to amass information to aid in future interpretation to the public. Lesser projects included the excavation of the Woodward Mound in Alachua County and several test excavations in the Sarasota-Bradenton area by Assistant Archaeologist Bullen. At the request of the U. S. Forest Service, Archaeologist Griffin visited the site of Fort Gadsden in the Apalachicola National Forest, and published a report on his findings.

The fiscal year saw eight publications appear by members of the staff. The editing of the volume, The Florida Indian and His Neighbors, containing the results of a conference held at Rollins College, entailed the most work. In addition to publications of the staff, Research Associate Hale G. Smith published a popular article, "The First Floridians", which was distributed by the Florida Park Service.

Outstanding among reports, unpublished as of June 30, 1950, are the reports on John's Island, Lake Jackson, Terra Ceia, and San Luis. The last named article, together with papers by Dr. Mark F. Boyd and Hale G. Smith, will appear as a volume on the Spanish mission period to be published by the University of Florida Press during 1950, under the title Here They Once Stood. Twelve lectures were given by the staff during the year, including one lecture at the annual meeting of the Florida Anthropological Association.

During the year a series of three interpretive panels were designed for Dade Memorial Park; research was undertaken to make these exhibits accurate, and the construction of one was completed.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PUBLICITY

During the fiscal year approximately 110,000 folders on Florida's State Parks and Historic Memorials were distributed; 10,000 leaflets on Florida Caverns were distributed by the Marianna-Jackson County Chamber of Commerce; 22,000 reprints of published articles on history, archaeology and State Parks were purchased; about 50 percent of these have been distributed; 67 enlargements of scenes in State Parks and Historic Memorials have been placed on exhibit.

SIGNS

Approximately 350 typical State Park signs have been made and placed on the highways and in the several parks. These were all made of cypress on treated posts and should last ten years.

Hundreds of metal State Park directional signs have been erected at all strategic highway intersections in the vicinity of each operating park through cooperation of the State Road Department.

Cooperation in publicizing State Parks has been received from the following:

- Florida State Advertising Commission;
- Florida State Chamber of Commerce;
- Florida Highways Magazine, Official Road Map of Florida, and also the Official Detour Bulletin of Florida Highways;
- Florida State Department of Agriculture -- State Parks and Historic Memorials will be mentioned in three booklets which this State agency is building up for early publication.

Dr. Dorothy Dodd, archivist, Florida State Library, has completed short articles on historic memorials, as a contribution from the Florida State Library.

Dr. Mark Boyd, historian, Florida Park Service, has completed full-length articles on Olustee Battlefield and Natural Bridge which will be published in early issues of the Florida Historical Quarterly.

Florida State Parks were added to the road maps distributed by all the major oil companies.

The Associated Press, the United Press, the United Press Radio Service, and nearly all daily and weekly newspapers in Florida have published news on the State Parks program.

National and state-wide public relations of an official nature were made by Board members and the State Park Director.

In accordance with the Collins Bill the Board selected and appointed 137 members of advisory councils for State Parks and Historic Memorials under the jurisdiction of the Board.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1950

REVENUE

Balance June 30, 1949			
TRUST FUND:			
Receipts - Merchandise sales	\$ 27,679.93		
Receipts - Other	46,031.80		
Receipts - Transfer from S.R.Dept.	<u>10,000.00</u>		
Total		\$ 83,711.73	
STATE APPROPRIATION:			
Salaries	160,500.00		
Salaries for Expense	4,500.00		
Expense	<u>132,500.00</u>		
Total		<u>297,500.00</u>	
Total Revenue			<u>381,211.73</u>

EXPENDITURES, RESERVES & BALANCES

Salaries	159,590.72		
Wages (temp. help)	28,950.13		
Contractual Services	47,114.99		
Commodities	32,339.30		
Current Charges	6,893.08		
Current Obligations	1,475.61		
Capital Outlay	37,756.45		
Non-Operating	<u>27,453.93</u>		
Total Expenditures		341,574.21	
Unreleased Reserve (Trust)	536.39		
Unreleased Reserve (St. Approp.)	<u>28,845.50</u>		
Total Unreleased Reserve		29,381.89	
Released Balance		<u>10,255.63</u>	
Total Expenditures, Reserves & Balances			<u>381,211.73</u>

Foot Note:

BREAKDOWN OF BALANCES & RESERVE

State Appropriation:			
Salary Reserve, Unreleased	465.00		
Salary Release Balance	<u>444.28</u>		
Total		909.28	
Salary for Expense Balance		0.84	
Expense Reserve, Unreleased	28,380.50		
Expense Release Balance	<u>6.40</u>		
Total		<u>28,386.90</u>	
Total State Appropriation Reserves & Balance			29,297.02
Trust Fund:			
Reserve, Unreleased	536.39		
Release for Expense Balance	9,651.11		
Release for Refund Balance	<u>153.00</u>		
Total		<u>10,340.50</u>	
Total Trust Fund Reserves & Balances			<u>10,340.50</u>
TOTAL RESERVES & BALANCES			<u>39,637.52</u>

BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURES
BY
PARKS AND DEPARTMENTS

	<u>Salaries</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Total</u>
ADMINISTRATION	37,679.61	38,152.58	75,832.19
HIGHLANDS HAMMOCK	15,140.00	23,443.19	38,583.19
HILLSBOROUGH RIVER	13,504.97	13,165.24	26,670.21
FORT CLINCH	5,095.00	4,429.83	9,524.83
TORREYA	2,790.00	6,151.78	8,941.78
GOLD HEAD BRANCH	13,929.45	19,605.90	33,535.35
MYAKKA RIVER	9,730.00	9,373.61	19,103.61
TOMOKA	1,200.00	1,036.72	2,236.72
FLORIDA CAVERNS	16,920.00	13,180.39	30,100.39
SUWANNEE RIVER		76.95	76.95
PAN AMERICAN		35.00	35.00
O'LENO	7,259.94	5,676.76	12,936.70
HUGH TAYLOR BIRCH	15,626.75	22,417.13	38,043.88
WAYSIDE		284.00	284.00
COLLIER-SEMINOLE	1,875.00	410.47	2,285.47
LITTLE TALBOT ISLAND		70.00	70.00
ARCHAEOLOGY	7,950.00	2,458.32	10,408.32
ST. ANDREWS	935.00	1,660.31	2,595.31
LAKE GRIFFIN		1.70	1.70
DESOTO BEACH		2.30	2.30
JONATHAN DICKINSON	3,975.00	2,314.64	6,289.64
SANTA ROSA	1,200.00	7,756.41	8,956.41
SILVER LAKE	330.00	939.47	1,269.47
ANASTASIA		676.52	676.52
JUDAH P. BENJAMIN	600.00	2,518.01	3,118.01
DADE BATTLEFIELD	900.00	770.37	1,670.37
NATURAL BRIDGE		862.46	862.46
OLUSTEE	550.00	261.56	811.56
MANATEE SPRINGS		37.00	37.00
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK	2,400.00	773.86	3,173.86
NEW SMYRNA RUINS		217.51	217.51
MADIRA BICKEL MOUND		129.36	129.36
CONSTITUTION MONUMENT		1,663.94	1,663.94
FLAGLER BEACH		1,392.70	1,392.70
JOHN F. ROLLINS		37.50	37.50
R-E-C-A-P-I-T-U-L-A-T-I-O-N	159,590.72	181,983.49	341,574.21